

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DEAE-00 TRSE-00

JUSE-00 SNM-02 L-03 /023 W

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R 261202Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6550

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12453

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH, US

SUBJ: RELEASE OF NARCOTICS SUSPECT: SUKRI SUKRIPHIROM

1. PUBLIC PROSECUTOR PHAT SAMOEPHONG OF THE FIFTH CRIMINAL CASE DIVISION RELEASED NARCOTICS SUSPECT SUKRI SUKRIPHIROM, AND HIS CONDEFENDANT HOI SEWAN, ABOUT 20 JUNE 1975. SUKRI HAS A LONG RECORD WITH U.S. NARCOTICS OFFICIALS. HE HAS BEEN A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKER FOR OVER TEN YEARS. HE IS A FUGITIVE FROM THE U.S., UNDER INDICTMENT FOR CONSPIRACY, HAVING CAUSED THE ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES OF OVER 60 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN. INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES CREDIT SUKRI AND HOI SEWAN WITH HAVING CAUSED THE ENTRY OF AS MUCH AS 250 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN INTO THE U.S. DEA ALSO HAS INFORMATION THAT SUKRI LET A CONTRACT AGAINST THE LIFE OF AN AMERICAN DEA AGENT IN KUALA LUMPUR.

2. THE POLICE ARRESTED SUKRI AND HOI SEWAN ON 22 MARCH 1975. THEY WRE THEN IN THE ACT OF DELIVERING 25 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN TO TWO DEA UNDERCOVER SPECIAL AGENTS. POLICE FILED CHARGES WITH THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR ON 11 JUNE 1975, SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE MANDATORY DEADLINE FOR RELEASE. ACCORDING TO THAI LAW, A DEFENDANT MUST BE CHARGED WITHIN 84 DAYS OF ARREST OR BE RELEASED FROM CUSTODY.

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3. SUKRI'S RELEASE PRESENTS A REAL THREAT TO THE

LIFE OF THE COOPERATING THAI WHOSE EFFORTS MADE THE ARREST OF SUKRI POSSIBLE. THE BANGKOK REGIONAL OFFICE OF DEA HAS EVACUATED THIS INDIVIDUAL FROM THAILAND TO AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS.

4. A LEADING POLICE OFFICIAL CALLED ON THE DCM AT THE LATTERS REQUEST JUNE 25 TO DISCUSS DURKI'S CASE. HE FRANKLY STATED THAT SUKRI'S RELEASE WAS A RESULT OF CORRUPTION IN THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, SPECIFICALLY ON THE PART OF ARUN ITSARAPHAKDI, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE OFFICE. WE DISCUSSED WITH THE POLICE OFFICIAL WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN HELP HIS EFFORTS TO REVERSE THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S ACTION.

5. THE AMBASSADOR INTENDS TO RAISE THE SUKRI CASE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HE AND OTHER IN THE MISSION WILL ALSO DISCUSS IT WITH OTHER KEY MINISTERS AND POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS AS THE OCCASION ARISES.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRISONERS RELEASES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RELEASE OF NARCOTICS SUSPECT: SUKRI SUKRPHIROM  
**TAGS:** SNAR, TH, US, (SUKRI SUKRPHIROM), (HOI SEWAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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